

**SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION MEETING**  
**June 17, 2015**  
**Reporting for the month of May 2015**

**AWOLs:** There were **155** AWOLs involving **132** youth: **23** youth AWOLED more than once in this same month.

<b>36</b> remain AWOL	<b>3</b> HOP
<b>72</b> returned to GH	<b>3</b> CCP
<b>16</b> are in JH	<b>1</b> Terminated
<b>1</b> DCFS	

**Outstanding AWOL detainments from previous months and arrests in May 2015:**

7 youths were arrested / detained in May who had AWOLED in previous months. 2 are in JH, 4 are in a GH, and 1 is HOP.

**Statistics and Findings regarding AWOLs in May:**

- 1) 34% of the AWOL incidents were Hispanic males with a mean age of 16.2 years. The second largest population (26%) of AWOLED youth during the month of May was Hispanic females with a mean age of 16.2 years. Black males and females accounted for 21% and 15% respectively. The overall average age of youth who AWOLED in May was 16.4 years.

*Recommendation:*

- Hispanic males have continued to represent the largest number of AWOL incidents for the past 33 months. The reason for the large number of Hispanic male AWOLs may likely be a representation of the general population of LA County. Even if that is a fact, it still means this is the population that Probation needs to work with to decrease AWOLs. DPOs, Therapists, or other GH and County staff, should interview at-risk youth (mainly Hispanic males around the age of 16) to find out about certain feelings related to age, gender, or cultural stresses and consider possible solutions to decrease these feelings/stresses.
  - Continue to make DPOs and GH staff aware of the demographics that are at most risk of AWOLing. Research and identify possible methods or daily practices of assisting youth to come to a less stressful state of mind.
- 2) The sooner the GH notifies Probation staff of the AWOL, the faster Probation can begin the steps necessary to detain the youth. For the month of May, one (1) of the GH's were non-compliant with reporting the AWOLs in a timely manner; one (1) relative / non-relative was non-compliant.

*Recommendation:*

- Continue to reiterate to GH staff and to legal guardians of youth the importance of reporting an AWOL as soon as the incident occurs. Specifically, all AWOLs should be reported within 24 hours in order to expedite the issuance of a bench warrant and the recovery of the youth. Statistics should be shared with GH staff to illustrate the real results of delayed reporting.
- 3) As with previous months, certain GHs showed a higher percentage of AWOLs than other GHs. This was determined by taking the number of AWOLs for that month and comparing it to the number of beds available in the GH (population). It is important to note that youth who AWOLED more than once in the same GH were only counted as 1 AWOL. For May 2015, 4 GHs and 2 RNR had a 30% or higher AWOL rate which is lower than last month (9 GH; 3 RNR).

*Recommendation:*

- Continue to track the frequency of AWOLs for each GH and see if a consistent pattern remains amongst the same group homes. At this point, certain GHs have shown to have a consistently high number of AWOLs.
  - Several confounding factors have to be controlled to identify a direct correlation between GH treatment of youth and AWOLs. For example, a high AWOL rate for a GH could only mean that that particular GH gets higher risk youth.
  - Investigate GHs that have an unusually high number of AWOLs compared to other GHs to see possible reasons.
  - Interview youth during investigation.
  - Create a plan of action based on results (directives for GH, staff training, etc).
  - Monitor GH to see if trend has stopped after implementation of programs or directives.
- 4) During the month of May, there was a positive correlation detected between bench warrant requests and timely bench warrant issuance and effect on youth detainment. As in, the longer time it took to issue the bench warrant, the less likely it was for the youth to be detained that same month:

*Recommendation:*

- Regardless of strong or weak correlations, consider the importance of having a bench warrant issued as soon as possible for an AWOLED youth. Overall, the sooner a bench warrant is issued, the



more likely it is that the youth will be detained by the end of the month (as several previous months' data has shown).

**Final Remarks on AWOLs:** Similar to last month, all 'insignificant' AWOLs were also incorporated into the data this month (i.e. youth Awoling for an hour). Certain trends relating to race, age, and sex continued to mirror the previous months' data.

### **iTrack (SIRs)-**

There were **0** child deaths and **0** suicide attempts reported for the month of May 2015, in the iTrack automated reporting system.

For the month of May, the "Other" category for SIRs is the third largest category.

#### *Recommendation:*

- Continue to instruct all iTrack users to NOT select the category "other," unless incident undeniably does not belong under any specific category. Another option is to remove the category "other," and instead add additional specific categories (once it is determined why users are selecting "other"). Probation is currently discussing improvement ideas regarding iTrack with ISD software managers.
- Probation is currently tracking all iTrack incident reports, specifically those listed as other, and will continue to provide the findings to the GH's and instruct them to refrain from using the "other" category unless absolutely necessary. It seems like this dialogue maybe the reason the number of incident reports listed as "other" has seen a decrease for the past 6 months. This dialogue will likely continue to decrease the frequency of over utilizing the "other" category; it may also provide the GH's an opportunity to retrain the staff members that continuously select the "other" category instead of properly categorizing the incidents.

### **GROUP HOME MONITORING AND INVESTIGATIONS:**

Community Youth Sports and Arts was placed on an Administrative HOLD status on May 26, 2015, Corrective Action Plan meeting is scheduled for June 16, 2015. Pacific Lodge was place on an Investigative HOLD status on May 15, 2015, and the HOLD status was quickly lifted on May 22, 2015, due to Unfound investigation conclusions.

**Child Abuse:**

We had **3** referrals for the month of May 2015, which are **Pending**.

**Pacific Lodge - Sexual Abuse:** A youth alleged that he read a conversation message between another youth and a staff, on a cell phone, sometime before Nov. 26, 2014. The message insinuated that there was some sort of sexual relationship. The allegation is **Unfounded**.

**Pacific Lodge - Sexual Abuse:** An anonymous caller to the Hot Line reported "threat of sexual abuse" against a staff and General Neglect by an unknown staff. Caller reported that the youth stated that he was dating one of the staff. Reporter stated that it became known that the staff the youth a cell phone with explicit pictures on it. The staff was transferred to another unit and the youth is threatening to AWOL from the facility. The allegation is **Unfounded**.

**New Concept - General Neglect:** Youth alleged that while he was placed at the GH last year, four to five youth would enter his room at night and physically assault him, "fist fight and take his money." Youth is claiming that staff knew about it and told the other youths to either get out of his room or to fight back because the youth thought he was a "weenie". Youth alleged this happened a few times. The allegation is **Inconclusive**.

**Group Home Investigations:**

We had **2** Group Home investigations during the month of May 2015: one was **Substantiated** for a Compliance Violation and **Unfounded** for Sexual Abuse. The other investigation is **Pending**. There were **4** Follow-up investigations for the month of May 2015: **1** was **Unfounded**, **2** were **Substantiated**, and **1** was **Substantiated/Unfounded**.

**Full Investigations:**

**Pacific Lodge - Sexual Abuse/Compliance Violation:** Staff failed to call in a SCAR referral to the Child Abuse Hotline. This came to light based on another youth alleging that a female staff sexually abused him. The allegation is **Substantiated** for the Compliance Violation and **Unfounded** for Sexual Abuse.

**Pacific Lodge - General Neglect/Staff Misconduct:** It was reported that a youth counselor told a resident, "I see you smoke and do things you're not supposed to, but I turn the other way. You can trust me and tell me what is on your phone." Also late reporting, as the GH knew about the allegation and did not report it until asked to on 5-19-15. The staff was suspended on 5-15-15. The allegation is **Pending**.

**Follow-up Investigations:**

**Trinity (El Monte) – Staff Misconduct:** Youth assaulted a staff twice and did not call for assistance until the second assault, nor were charges pressed against the youth. Concern for how the staff handled the incident and how future incidents will be handled. The allegation was **Unfounded**.



**Pacific Lodge – Personal Rights Violation:** Youth's mother complained that she is being treated poorly when trying to visit with her son after driving 1 1/2 hours to see him. The GH gives her 10-15 minute visits with no privacy. Additionally, the mother states that she has not been contacted for family therapy sessions. The allegation was **Substantiated**.

**Rancho San Antonio – General Neglect:** Youth's mother is alleging that her son's medical needs have not been met. The allegation was **Substantiated**.

**Optimist (Main) - Compliance Violations:** GH failed to report full details of an incident and failed to contact the police when a youth was severely physically assaulted, stating that the youth did not want to press charges, sitting them out of compliance. The allegation for Compliance Violation for failure to contact the police is **Substantiated**. Compliance Violation for failing to report the full details of an incident is **UNFOUNDED**.

#### **Monitoring:**

The 2014-2015, fiscal year is coming to a close for the reviews and we are currently preparing for the next fiscal year, with a revised compliance tool that Probation and DCFS collaborated on. Training on the revised tool is scheduled for July 7, 2015, for joint training with DCFS and Probation.

#### **Permanency:**

We are currently working on 1 potential adoption and 4 potential legal guardianships.

In May 2015, we completed 0 Adoptions and 0 Legal Guardianships.